

# Taskforce meets on land use study

LANCASTER — Farmland preservation has become the current, hot issue facing Lancaster Countians. In order to assist the county in preparing for and carrying out proper land use decisions, a group of agencies have begun working on a method for identifying prime farmland

areas and estimating the impact, both aesthetically and economically, of their loss.

On the local level, the Lancaster County Conservation District, Land Use Advisory Committee, and the County Planning Commission are working

with three federal agencies in this study.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing assistance through the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service.

This task force met on Thursday to discuss the

progress they have made in identifying and analyzing the land use conflicts in the county.

Harold Taylor of ESCS told the group that they are at a point where they can begin to analyze specific social and economic activities concerning the county's land.

Information, he said, will be taken off currently available maps and plugged into a computer. This data would then be available for public use in identifying and solving land use problems.

Sandy Coyman of the LCPC explained a process he referred to as digitizing. He said that land cover information could be read off maps by using a sonic table. This machine would then transfer the information to a computer, and any planning group could retrieve the data in the form of a map overlay.

This retrieval system, explained John Wenderoth of ESCS, will allow land use decisions to be studied and reevaluated. Then, if needed, the factors going into making the decision could be weighted differently, depending on importance.

With the computer, all of this could be done in a matter of minutes, rather than the hours it would take to do the same thing

manually. The computer also lets the information be updated periodically.

The personnel of ESCS told the group that when the information on Lancaster County was compared to a national model, the county was not accurately represented. This model projects the economy to the year 2020, using estimated population and financial figures.

As a result, the county requested that ESCS analyze the county based on historical trends, making use of the census and other crops and land use information.

The task force is now at the point where they must gather local information through questionnaires. Because of the funding for this study, the gathering of the comprehensive county data will be done at the local level.

Amos Funk, chairman of the Conservation District pointed out that if the questionnaires weren't sent out locally, they probably wouldn't be returned.

Eventually, this study will allow Lancaster Countians to study the impact of a land use change prior to its happening. It will be able to tell whether there will be any economic leakage if a parcel

of agricultural land is converted to industry, or another use.

SCS hopes to expand this type of study to include all of Southeast Pennsylvania, and perhaps even tie in with the Delmarva study, remarked Graham Munkittrick, State Conservationist.

This information is anticipated to be available within a year's time. The economists stated that it would take about six months to analyze the information once the questionnaires were returned.

The Conservation District and the Planning Commission hope to use this information as a tool for the County's Agricultural Preservation Board.

Until it is available, the District will be using monies obtained through the Resources Conservation Act to define boundaries of prime farmland in the County.

Amos Funk commented that with this type of information available for the District's and Planning Commission's use, the projected future loss of farmland in Lancaster County might level off, and eventually stop. SM

## How to care for the poinsettia

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The coming of the holiday season would not be complete without mention of the Christmas flower, the poinsettia.

The poinsettia became associated with Christmas during the 17th century when Franciscan priests in Mexico used the poinsettia flower in nativity processions. The poinsettia plant could be found growing outside of Mexico City and it was not uncommon to find plants over ten feet tall.

The poinsettia was introduced into the United States in 1825 by Joel R. Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico and from whom it got its name.

Commercial production began in California during the early 20th century and has brought the poinsettia to its present day popularity.

It is not difficult to maintain the beauty of the poinsettia plant throughout the holiday season. Do not allow the soil to dry out at any time, since this will cause the flower (bracts) to fall off. Provide sunlight during the day, making sure the plant is protected from

drafts or excessive heat from appliances, radiators or ventilating ducts.

Ideal temperatures should never exceed 72 degrees F. or 60 degrees F. nighttime to prolong the bright color of the bracts. When the bracts fade, cut back the plant to eight inches and grow as a foliage plant.

Despite its radiant beauty, unsubstantial stories have been circulated about the potential poisonous effect of the plant parts. To scientifically resolve the charges against poinsettia and to alleviate public fear concerning its alleged toxicity, the floral industry launched an intensive investigation. Research work was performed by the Ohio State

University.

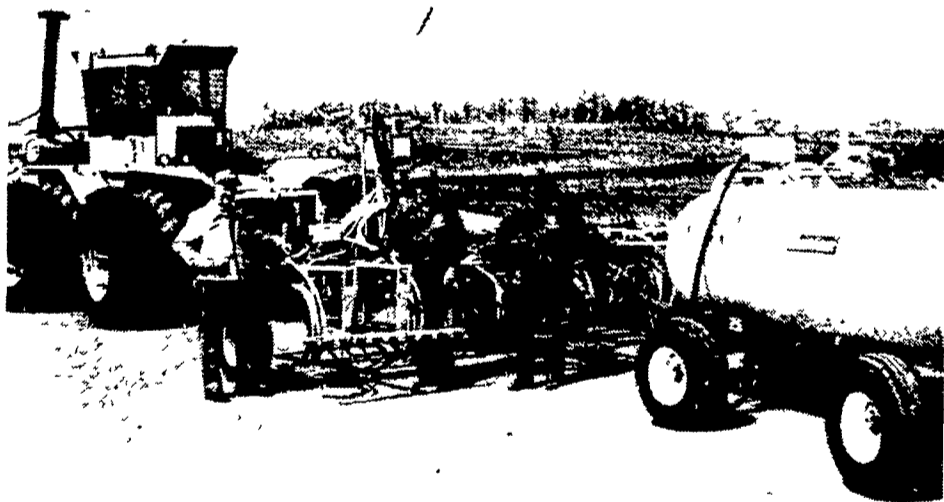
The study established that the rat, when given unusually high doses of various portions of the poinsettia showed no mortality, no symptoms of toxicity and no changes in dietary intake or general behavior pattern.

A clean bill of health was given to the poinsettia. However, to protect children from even a remote possibility of danger from any floral products, the Society of American Florists stresses that children should be warned to put nothing in their mouths except food products. This holiday season consider a flowering plant as a gift, it will brighten up any home.



## FALL TILLAGE AND CUSTOM APPLIED NITROGEN

Use the "Pros" - Fast, Efficient, Effective



Shown above left to right is Don Baldwin, Representative of Dow Chemical Co.; Kent Fritz and Mike Bitner - Salesmen for Organic Plant Food Co.

### ONE CUSTOM APPLICATION GIVES YOU ALL THIS:

1. "COLD FLO" AMMONIA APPLIED FROM 100 TO 250 LB. NIT.
2. N-SERVE APPLICATION WITH NITROGEN
  - Reduces Denitrification
  - Increases Nit. Efficiency
  - Increases Fall Application Time
3. CUSTOM FALL CHISELING
  - Ideal for Corn and Other Crops
4. AMMONIA APPLIED PROPERLY IN THE FALL IS AS EFFICIENT AS SPRING APPLIED N.

★ CALL OUR REPRESENTATIVE NOW TO LINEUP YOUR WORK



**ORGANIC PLANT FOOD CO.**  
2313 Norman Rd., Lancaster, PA  
Ph: (717) 397-5152

#### COVERAGE AREA

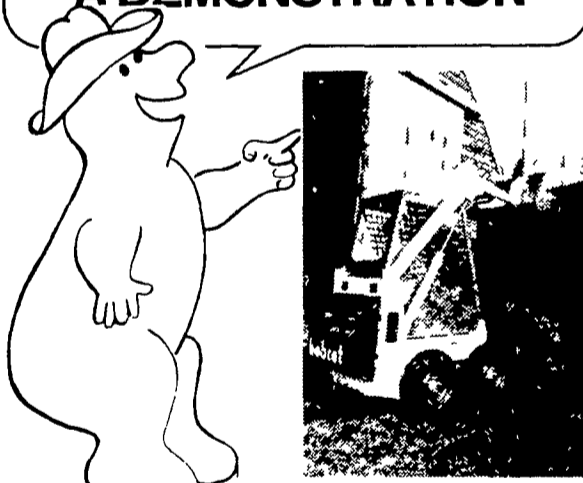
North of Rt. 23  
West of Rt. 272  
and Adjoining Counties  
KENT FRITZ

South of Rt. 23  
East of Rt. 272  
and Chester County  
MIKE BITNER



## RIDE 'EM COWBOY!

WE'LL SET UP A DEMONSTRATION



Take time off from that hard, sweaty hand labor and see how the compact Bobcat loader can do it easier and save you money. Six model series from 500 to 3700 pound rated operating capacity. 4-wheel drive for full circle maneuverability. Variety of attachment options. Exclusive Bob Tach system for fast attachment change. It's some kind of animal! Give a Bobcat a ride just name the time and place.

WE ALSO HAVE SOME GOOD USED BOBCATS

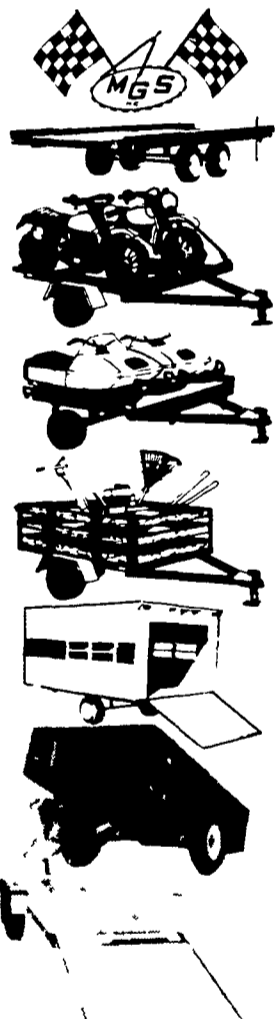


SALES SERVICE & RENTALS

3608 Nazareth Pike  
Bethlehem PA 18017  
Phone 215 691 3070

Rt 100 Macungie, PA  
Phone 215-966 5353

## TRAILERS 59 VARIETIES



New and Used Trailers  
Accessories - Hitches  
Inspections - Repairs

★ DEALERS ★

M & S ARCTIC CAT & SUZUKI  
RD 1 (1/2 Mi. W of Blue Ball on Rt 322)  
New Holland, Pa 17557  
717/354-4726

MGS TRAILERS  
RD3 (Near Zinn's Diner)  
Denver, Pa 17517  
215/267 7528

MELLOTT BROS  
TLR SALES  
RD2 (Rt 272 N)  
Willow Street, Pa 17584  
717/464 4855

WHITE OAK  
LAWN & LEISURE  
329 W High St  
Manheim, Pa 17545  
717/665-4627